

**Abraham Scott's Testimony
Before the
House Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats, and International Relations
On
June 6, 2006**

Good afternoon. Congressional Shays and Distinguished Members of this very prestigious Committee, I feel deeply honored and proud that you invited me here this afternoon to testify before this House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations as a result of the loss of my loving wife, Janice Marie of 24 years in the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001. It truly saddens my heart that this invitation had to come under such grievous circumstance and not under a more positive and happier one. Nevertheless, I did not hesitate to accept your invitation because I was able through divine intervention to maintain some glimpse whereby enable me to go on with my life in spite of the trials and tribulations. I eventually made a solemn commitment to my wife and two daughters after this tragic event that I would reaffirm my faith in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, keep the memories alive of those wonderful individuals who were murdered at all three sites; especially my wife and those other beautiful individuals that were murdered in the Pentagon and onboard American Airlines Flight 77, and finally to actively involve myself with this magnificent governmental body called Congress to assure the right measures or steps are enacted into law to minimize the chance of a similar atrocity from ever occurring again within the borders of these United States. I have selflessly been accomplishing the latter by being in attendance of many of those hearings facilitated by the 9/11 Commission, by participating in the Congressional process which eventually led to the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 by Congress, and more recently by attending the 9/11 trial of Mr. Zacarias Moussaoui. As I begin my testimony, I must first give thanks as always to the Almighty for allowing me this opportunity to sit in front of you this afternoon and secondly, I pray that nobody in this room or those who are viewing or might view this session in the future does misconstrue or misinterpret this testimony of mine as an attempt on my part to make a political statement such as the one made by Mr. Moussaoui did at the end of his trial for that is not my intention. One thing that was most pleasing and gratifying to me during my post 9/11 life was having the opportunity to be present at the conference last year where the 9/11 Commission gave the final report on their 41 recommendations. As you know, this report included the assignment of Alpha grades as a measurement tool for evaluating the implementation status of the subtopic(s) under each recommendation. I was quite shocked, surprised, and appalled to see that the most important recommendation to me had received such low grades for each of its subtopics. The title of this recommendation is the "Civil Liberties and Executive Powers". Even though I do believe these grades were fair and just ones, I considered them to be totally unacceptable because I unquestionably believe that those failures which generated this recommendation were the ultimate reasons for the cause of those unjustifiable tragic events

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on the morning of September 11, 2001. Additionally, I consider the low grade given in respect to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board was a disgrace and totally and a slap the face for the hard work which was done by the 9/11 Commission. Based upon the low grades and the importance of this recommendation, it is of my opinion that the Bush Administration should have the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board high on its priority list in terms of bringing this organization fully functional as quickly as possible and providing it with the necessary personnel and funding resources to allow it to effectively accomplish the assigned mission. On the other hand, I do believe achieving this end result would be a meaningless effort without the support of Congress to expedite the deliberation and approval process so that action can be taken on implementing the other 9/11 Commission's recommendations. I have not yet heard or read that such steps will be completed anytime soon in the near future. I arrived at this conclusion due to several reasons. First, I sense that there is no urgency on the part of Congress to expeditiously arrive upon a mutually agreed upon plan to secure our borders, secure our seaports, and to gain as well as maintain accountability of non-citizens who are already in and are entering this country. These issues are near and dear to my heart of I think need to be acted upon sooner rather later. I am first to admit that one thing this tragic event did to me was to change my mindset on the political process of this country. For example, my pre-9/11 strategy for voting was to vote strictly Democrat at all levels of governments. I have since changed this mindset by making absolutely sure my vote is given regardless of party affiliation to the man or woman that I feel will not hesitate to make those tough decisions for the good of this country and the people and not worry about the impact those decisions will have on his or her re-election campaign. Secondly, I know that our Congressmen and women are being asked to tackle a number of very sensitive issues in reference to the implementation of these recommendations. I know this will not be an easy road for you as this country's Law Makers to navigate, but you and you alone must take this journey and be prepared to compromise and make small as well as big sacrifices in order to reach bipartisan decisions on these recommendations. You must be prepared to do so with a clear heart and mind even if the decision might not be in yours and/or the interest of some of your constituents, but will benefit the effort of restoring the faith of the American public as a whole in the values of our civil liberties. This too is the least you can do to pay the dividends on the return on our loved ones' investing their lives on the morning of September 11, 2001 for the preservation of this great nation. You as political leaders and Law Makers must take heed and set aside your indifferences and political agendas and start making decisions based upon what I hope is placed in your hearts by the Supreme Being to do the right thing for the good of people who have and continue to give their all

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and all for the freedom of this great nation. For I can assure you that this enemy call terrorism is not going to patiently wait around for you to try and resolve the various stalemates in Congress before striking again. You must remember that we are dealing with a very unique enemy. We are dealing with mentally unstable extreme fundamentalists of different nationalities who have declared a Holy War to just kill Americans at all cause for no justifiable reason. While some have compared the attacks by those terrorists on September 11, 2001 to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, we must always remind ourselves that we are not engaged in a conflict with a sovereign nation like Japan and the other Axis of Evil countries during World War II. This can't be defined as gorilla type warfare. I can only characterize this as being engaged in a Here No Evil/See No Evil type of warfare. Another comparison is that this nation had the utmost and undivided support of it government, people, and resources throughout the entire period of World War II that eventually brought about the demise of this powerful enemy comprising primarily Germany, Italy, and Japan. The events of 9/11 also brought about a heightening of Patriotism as it was clearly visible by the number of dwelling dawn with the American Flag throughout this country. On the other hand, this nation from a personal view point is becoming with the passage of time more and more complacent, less patriotic, unfocused, and not as united as it was right after the occurrence of the tragic events on the morning of September 11, 2001. Finally, I honestly don't think a great many people in this country have not idea what do "Civilian Liberty means. The dictionary defines it as the state of being subject only to law for the good of the community and individual rights protected by law and unjust governmental or other interference. Lets not forget. For you and only you alone as a law making body has the earthly power in your hearts, minds, and hands to ensure the people's Civil Liberties of this great Nation. So as I come to the conclusion of my testimony, I would like to reflect with your permission back upon when I was a young African American male growing up a small rural Southern community and being educated in a segregated school system of Beaufort, County, South Carolina we would recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and then sing the song "My County, 'Tis of Thee" at the beginning of classes every morning. As we sang the lyrics "My County, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of Liberty....." to this song, I can vividly remember that this song would always instill in me a sense of comfort and security. The events of 9/11 has adversely affected my views in regard to the lyrics of this song. I am asking your help with reversing this negative effect upon me in regard to this song, restoring confidence to the American people in their civil liberties, last but not least reassuring the family members that their loved ones did not died in vain. I thank you and may God Bless each and everyone of yon on the House Subcommittee on National Security, and may God Bless America.